

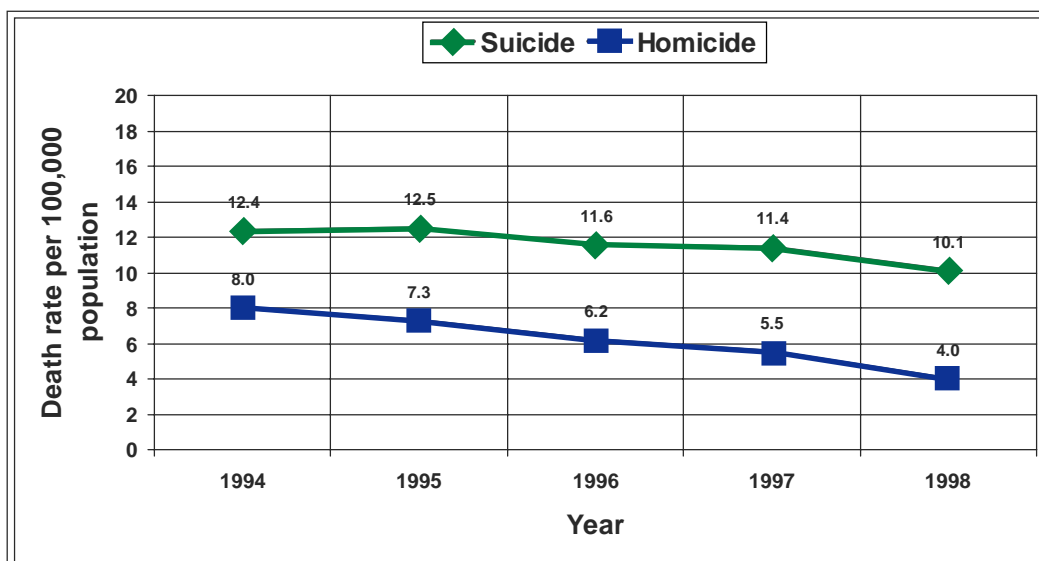
Violence AND *Injury*

Homicide & Suicide

In 1998, there were 308 suicide deaths (crude rate of 11.0 per 100,000 population) and 106 homicide deaths (crude rate of 3.8 per 100,000) to San Diego County residents. The age-adjusted death rates for homicide and suicide have been decreasing in San Diego County. Over the five-year period from 1994 through 1998, the homicide rate decreased 50% from an age-adjusted rate of 8.0 per 100,000 to 4.0 per 100,000. During the same time period, the suicide rate decreased 18% from 12.4 per 100,000 to 10.1 per 100,000. The 1998 rates for homicide and suicide are both below the Healthy People 2000 Objectives.

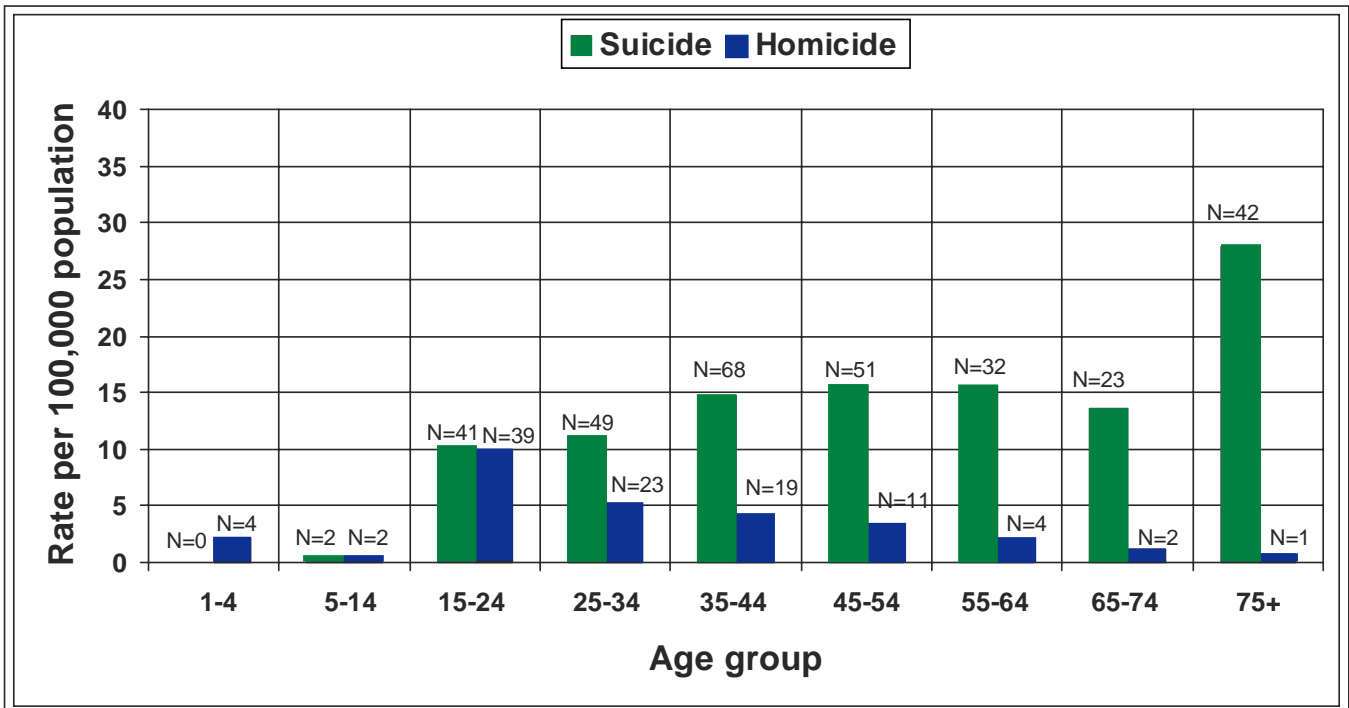
Suicide rates were highest among the older population, with the rate peaking at 27.9 per 100,000 among those aged 75 years and older. Homicide rates, however, were highest among young adults, with a high rate of 9.8 per 100,000 among those aged 15-24 years old. The racial breakdown of victims of homicide and suicide also differs greatly. Eighty percent of suicide deaths occurred among the white population. Among homicide victims, 34% were white, 31% were Hispanic and 25% were Black.

**Death Rates* Due to Suicide and Homicide
San Diego County, 1994-1998**



*Age-adjusted death rates

Age-Specific Death Rates* Due to Suicide and Homicide San Diego County, 1994-1998



Note: Caution should be taken when interpreting rates calculated from small numbers.



Injury

Morbidity & Mortality

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ensures the quality of emergency medical services delivered in the county, including 9-1-1 ambulance services, trauma care services, disaster medical services, and non-emergency ambulance services. EMS provides services within two ambulance districts, oversees the County's medical disaster plan and implements numerous community education projects.

The leading cause of injuries requiring Paramedic/EMT response for age groups 5-54 was motor vehicle occupant crashes. In comparison, the younger and older age groups (<5 and over 54 years) were injured due to unintentional falls.

The leading cause of injury death in San Diego County was due to motor vehicle occupant crashes, followed by unintentional poisoning (which includes recreational drug use). Deaths due to unintentional poisonings were the leading cause of injury deaths for individuals between the ages of 35 and 54.

Since motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injuries and deaths it is useful to examine the violation categories for the party at fault in motor vehicle occupant crashes. The most common violations in injury crashes were unsafe speed and automobile failure to yield right of way. Twelve percent of all injury crashes were due to DUI Alcohol/Drugs. DUI was a significant cause of crash among middle-aged drivers.



**Leading Causes of Injury Among Paramedic/EMT Responses
by Age Group in San Diego County, 1998**

Rank	<5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34
1	Unintentional Fall 756	Motor Vehicle Occupant 453	Motor Vehicle Occupant 469	Motor Vehicle Occupant 2,014	Motor Vehicle Occupant 1,845	Motor Vehicle Occupant 2,506
2	Motor Vehicle Occupant 390	Unintentional Fall 413	Unintentional Fall 404	Unintentional Fall 316	Unintentional Fall 345	Unintentional Fall 776
3	Pedestrian 81	Pedestrian 149	Pedalcycle 237	Assault Blunt Trauma 308	Assault Blunt Trauma 300	Assault Blunt Trauma 463
4	Fire/Hot Substance 79	Pedalcycle 131	Other Vehicle 107	Pedalcycle 134	Motorcycle 133	Motorcycle 214
5	Unintentional Cut/Pierce 38	Other Vehicle 42	Pedestrian 95	Assault Cut Pierce 104	Assault Cut/Pierce 116	Pedalcycle 180
6	Other Vehicle 28	Unintentional Cut/Pierce 38	Assault Blunt Trauma 64	Other Vehicle 81	Pedalcycle 90	Assault Cut Pierce 139
7	Pedalcycle 26	Unintentional Blunt Trauma 28	Hit-Kicked During Sports 48	Pedestrian 77	Pedestrian 65	Pedestrian 138
8				Motorcycle 66	Other Vehicle 70	Other Vehicle 120
Number of Prehospital Patients	1,574	1,403	1,658	3,530	3,422	5,194

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Health and Human Services Agency

Leading Causes of Injury Among Paramedic/EMT Responses by Age Group in San Diego County, 1998

35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total
Motor Vehicle Occupant 2,144	Motor Vehicle Occupant 1,390	Unintentional Fall 859	Unintentional Fall 1,491	Unintentional Fall 5,483	Motor Vehicle Occupant 13,267
Unintentional Fall 1,011	Unintentional Fall 1,072	Motor Vehicle Occupant 732	Motor Vehicle Occupant 568	Motor Vehicle Occupant 542	Unintentional Fall 12,896
Assault Blunt Trauma 416	Assault Blunt Trauma 188	Pedestrian 64	Pedestrian 69	Unknown Fall 100	Assault Blunt Trauma 1,864
Pedalcycle 220	Pedestrian 121	Assault Blunt Trauma 52	Unknown Fall 23	Pedestrian 78	Pedalcycle 1,220
Pedestrian 174	Pedalcycle 113	Pedalcycle 42	Other Vehicle 21	Fire/Hot Substance 37	Pedestrian 1,138
Motorcycle 149	Motorcycle 73	Other Vehicle 31	Fire/Hot Substance 19	Other Vehicle 23	Other Vehicle 709
Assault Cut Pierce 122	Other Vehicle 69	Motorcycle 23	Pedalcycle 18	Self Inflicted Fall 17	Motorcycle 705
Other Vehicle 109	Assault Cut Pierce 49	Fire/Hot Substance 20	Assault Blunt Trauma 17	Unknown Blunt Trauma 17	Assault Cut/Pierce 569
4,887	3,380	1,955	2,307	6,308	36,071+

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, San Diego County Prehospital Data

+Total includes 453 cases with an unspecified age.

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**Leading Causes of Injury Deaths
by Age Group in San Diego County*, 1998**

Rank	<5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24
1	Unintentional Drowning	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional MV Traffic
	8	10	4	35	33
2	Unintentional Suffocation	Unintentional Drowning	Suicide Suffocation	Homicide Firearm	Homicide Firearm
	5	1	2	12	14
3	Homicide Unspecified	Unintentional Fire/Burn	Homicide Cut/Pierce	Suicide Firearm	Suicide Firearm
	4	1	1	9	13
4	Unintentional MV Traffic	Homicide Other	Unintentional Drowning	Suicide Suffocation	Unintentional Poisoning
	3	1	1	6	8
5			Unintentional Pedestrian	Unintentional Poisoning	Suicide Suffocation
			1	5	7
6				Homicide Cut/Pierce	Unintentional Drowning
				3	5
Total Number of Injury Deaths	23	13	9	78	100

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Health and Human Services Agency

Leading Causes of Injury Deaths by Age Group in San Diego County*, 1998

25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total
Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional Poisoning	Unintentional Poisoning	Suicide Firearm	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional Fall	Unintentional MV Traffic
37	69	54	19	25	70	261
Unintentional Poisoning	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional MV Traffic	Suicide Firearm	Unintentional MV Traffic	Unintentional Poisoning
32	40	30	12	16	32	183
Suicide Suffocation	Suicide Firearm	Suicide Firearm	Unintentional Fall	Unintentional Fall	Suicide Firearm	Suicide Firearm
18	27	20	6	12	20	140
Suicide Firearm	Suicide Poisoning	Suicide Poisoning	Suicide Poisoning	Suicide Poisoning	Suicide Suffocation	Unintentional Fall
16	19	18	6	5	13	106
Homicide Firearm	Suicide Suffocation	Unintentional Fall	Adverse Effects	Unintentional Poisoning	Adverse Effects	Suicide Suffocation
11	14	11	5	3	8	74
Suicide Poisoning	Homicide Firearm	Suicide Suffocation		Adverse Effects	Unintentional Poisoning	Suicide Poisoning
11	11	9		3	7	65
165	217	173	79	76	182	1,122+

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, California Department of Health Services, Death Records.

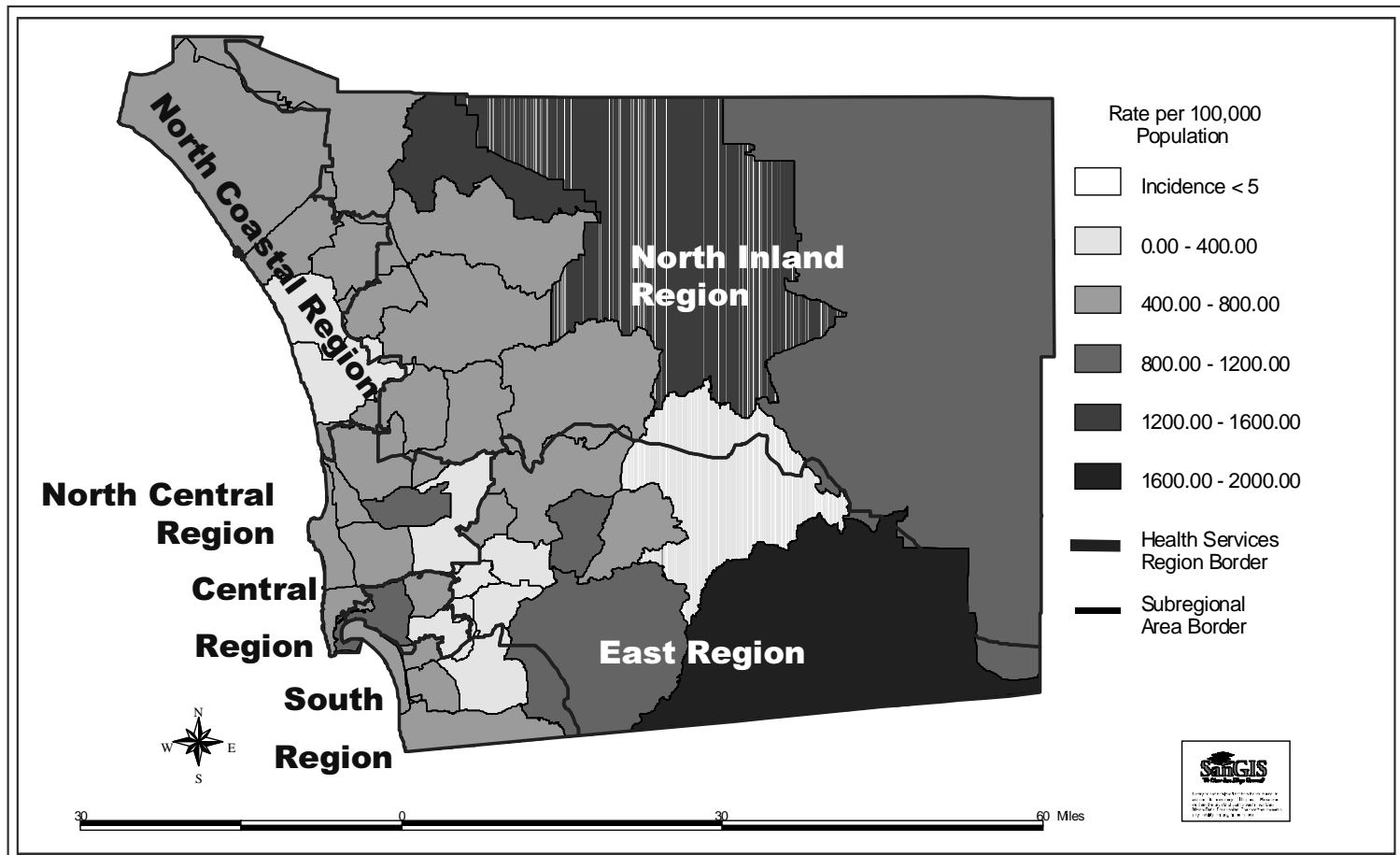
+ Total includes seven deaths with an unknown age.

* County of Residence.

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Motor Vehicle Injury

Rates of Motor Vehicle Occupant Injury Resulting in Paramedic/EMT Response by Subregional Area - FY 97/98



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Records FY 97/98; Population Estimates, SANDAG.



Leading Violation Categories in Motor Vehicle Occupant Injury Crashes by Age of Party at Fault, San Diego County

July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999

Age of Party at Fault	Rank of Violation Category						Total Number of Crashes
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1-4	*						1
5-9	*						1
10-14	Improper Turning 3	Unsafe Speed 2	*				7
15-19	Unsafe Speed 584	Automobile Right-of-Way 276	Improper Turning 268	Traffic Signals & Signs 133	DUI Alcohol/Drugs 116	Following Too Closely 67	1618
20-24	Unsafe Speed 552	Automobile Right-of-Way 277	Improper Turning 270	DUI Alcohol/Drugs 245	Traffic Signals & Signs 165	Following Too Closely 92	1790
25-34	Unsafe Speed 803	Automobile Right-of-Way 378	DUI Alcohol/Drugs 355	Improper Turning 278	Traffic Signals & Signs 225	Following Too Closely 117	2381
35-44	Unsafe Speed 675	DUI Alcohol/Drugs 299	Automobile Right-of-Way 281	Improper Turning 235	Traffic Signals & Signs 194	Following Too Closely 99	2010
45-54	Unsafe Speed 360	Automobile Right-of-Way 204	DUI Alcohol/Drugs 152	Improper Turning 146	Traffic Signals & Signs 102	Following Too Closely 55	1164
55-64	Unsafe Speed 162	Automobile Right-of-Way 136	Traffic Signals & Signs 73	Improper Turning 61	DUI Alcohol/Drugs 43	Wrong Side of Road 18	564
65-74	Automobile Right-of-Way 132	Unsafe Speed 122	Improper Turning 58	Traffic Signals & Signs 44	**		438
75-84	Automobile Right-of-Way 143	Unsafe Speed 92	Improper Turning 51	Traffic Signals & Signs 48	Following Too Closely 13†	Wrong Side of Road 13†	401
85+	Automobile Right-of-Way 31	Unsafe Speed 18†	Improper Turning 18†	Traffic Signals & Signs 11	Following Too Closely 6	Wrong Side of Road 4	91
All Crashes	Unsafe Speed 3701	Automobile Right-of-Way 2007	Improper Turning 1517	DUI Alcohol/Drugs 1313	Traffic Signals & Signs 1120	Following Too Closely 567	12292

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, SWITRS database FY 98/99

* Violation categories leading to a single crash were not ranked.

** Multiple violation categories with the same number of victims were not listed due to space limitations.

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